

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims, as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Office Action, are respectfully requested.

The reference to De Roo, et al, which is relied on in all rejections is a U.S. Patent Application Publication having a filing date of January 9, 2002. The present application, on the other hand, claims a priority date of February 15, 2001, i.e. a date which is earlier than the filing date of the reference.

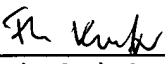
Accordingly, once applicant perfects the claim to priority, the reference to De Roo, et al will no longer be a reference which is citable against the present application.

A verified translation of the priority document will be submitted as soon as possible.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

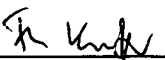
Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004.

By:  Date: December 16, 2004
Friedrich Kueffner